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AFGHANISTAN

FACT SHEET

Nimroz Province

OVERVIEW

USAID estimated support for Nimroz from January 2002 - June 2011: \$38.3 million

Estimated population: 140,000 (Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Central Statistics Office: Estimated Population of Afghanistan 2008-2009)

Capital: Zaranj

Note: No PRT



The sparsely populated province of Nimroz is bordered by both Iran and Pakistan. Many of Nimroz's Dari-speaking Pashtun and Baluch residents fled to neighboring countries during the years of war and Taliban rule, and have since returned. This province has been particularly burdened by severe drought, but its farmers continue to produce crops. Nimroz lacks many basic services, and unemployment in the region is high.

AGRICULTURE

Goal: Increase agricultural sector jobs and income through a) increased agricultural productivity by increasing farmer access to inputs and effective extension services; b) invigorated agribusiness by increasing linkages between farmers, markets, credit, and trade corridors; and c) rehabilitated watersheds and improved irrigation infrastructure. Also, increase Afghans' confidence in their government by increased Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock's (MAIL) capacity to deliver services and promote the private sector and farmer associations through direct budget and technical assistance.

Summary: USAID focuses on preparing farmers to participate in a modern agricultural economy through improved agricultural opportunities, veterinary services, improved irrigation, and training.

Current Activities:

- Establish a farm service center

Accomplishments:

- Supported a livestock management program in three districts and trained more than 760 rural women in small livestock care
- Trained 1,344 herders in cashmere harvesting and provided them with the combs needed to obtain cashmere from their goats
- Distributed 3,031 radios to provide access to agricultural extension service broadcasts for farmers and traders
- Improved access to irrigation in Nimroz through the construction or rehabilitation of 13 canals and 14 flood protection walls
- Provided high-yield vegetable and wheat seeds, as well as fertilizer, to farmers
- Trained 215 farmers in modern crop production practices to increase crop yield and local income
- Contributed to the development of the rangeland law
- Trained Kuchi leaders in peace and negotiation methods



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DEMOCRACY & GOVERNANCE

Goal: Build the capacity of government institutions to improve the quality of government services to Afghan citizens. Support independent media institutions and advocacy groups.

Summary: USAID supports building the capacity of government institutions and civil-society in Nimroz Province through activities that assist the justice sector and civil-society.

Current Activities:

- Provide capacity building training to civil-society organizations
- Provide training to the provincial council, which improves professionalism, knowledge, and skills, resulting in more effective and transparent leadership
- Train provincial- and district-level civil servants in the five common functions highlighted in the Afghanistan National Development Strategy: financial management, human resources management, procurement, project management, and strategy and policy development.
- Support accountable municipal governance, improved municipal delivery of public services, and improved generation and management of municipal revenue in provincial capitals
- Provide the provincial governor with operational resources and money for community outreach and micro projects to support his needs and serve as incentive to develop
- Develop the human and institutional capacity of the courts, increase access to justice particularly for women, and develop and implement a case tracking system including professional training for judges and administrators on the system
- Provide institutional capacity development and advocacy support to women-focused Afghan civil-society organizations

Accomplishments:

- Supported justice sector development through the publication and distribution of Judicial Reference Law sets, a 17-volume collection of laws, to 12 judges in the province
- Developed and trained judges and court administrators in the new Afghanistan Court Administration System, a case-management system that improves the courts' ability to manage cases and provide due process, leading to more effective and transparent rule of law
- Supported justice sector development through a one-month Foundation Training Program for six sitting judges and a one-year Supreme Court-mandated Stage Judicial Training Program for three judicial candidates, providing judges with access to the tools necessary to officiate over the courts
- Assisted the Supreme Court in drafting a new ethics code for all judges and provided training for all of Afghanistan's judges in the contents and importance of the code
- Promoted public participation in governance through civic education, voter registration, election candidate training, and election monitoring for the 2004-2005 elections
- Supported the 2008 voter registration exercise, assisted domestic and international observation missions, trained political parties and independent poll agents, conducted a series of poll surveys ahead of the elections, and ultimately helped conduct the 2009/2010 elections
- Provided capacity building training to one civil-society organization
- Awarded 10 grants

ECONOMIC GROWTH



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Goal: Create a developed business climate that enables private investment, job creation, and financial independence.

Summary: USAID's economic growth program helps the Afghan government develop sound economic governance and works with the private sector to stimulate investment and business opportunities. USAID partners with Afghans and the Afghan government to attract investment, generate sustainable employment, and expand market linkages. USAID promotes economic development in Nimroz Province through automating banking services, expanding access to telecommunications, and training customs officials.

Current Activities:

- Conduct budget training programs and providing technical assistance to provincial officials in preparing annual budget estimates through support to the Ministry of Finance (MoF) provincial budgeting team and provincial budgeting officers based in the training hub

Accomplishments:

- Facilitated and launched Afghan government effort to connect provincial government offices with Kabul through broadband technology (this Government Communications Network facilitates active, transparent governance)
- Assisted in the hiring of two MoF provincial budgeting officers to support provincial budgeting training and coordination with line ministries
- Promoted economic related information and data collection activities to build Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB) regional economic research and analytical functions introduced in DAB zone offices
- Installed four district communications network centers and one Village Communications Network, operated by Afghan Telecom, that provide telephones, internet, and photocopying services to district government officials and the public
- Implemented an automated Core Banking System, provided training for bank staff, and expanded and refurbished the provincial branch of DAB that operates as the paying agent for the government and disburses all social, payroll, and procurement payments (services such as these increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the social and economic infrastructure of Afghanistan, contributing to the development of the public and private-sectors)
- Installed the Revenue Reconciliation and Accounting database in the Nimroz Mustofiat, which has dramatically reduced processing times of Afghan government revenue receipts, production on revenue reports, and uploading into the consolidated MoF Financial Management System
- Rolled out a provincial budgeting training initiative touching Nimroz
- Conducted a five-day provincial budgeting training program for more than 50 provincial officials from key directorates on foundations of public financial management, planning and budgeting practices, and the MoF's public financial management reforms in budgeting, treasury, and aid management
- Customs staff received training on detections, valuation, tariffs, data entry, and preparation of trade statistics to build a professional, modern customs authority
- Provided advanced customs software and computer training to improve border security
- Supported the revenue reconciliation team of the Nimroz Mustofiat centered on accurate revenue collection posting and reporting to center
- Promoted improved cash management operations with regard to availability and quality of bank notes in circulation

EDUCATION



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Goal: Improve the quality of basic education through increased availability of primary school textbooks.

Summary: USAID supports educational improvements in Nimroz through national education projects. USAID provides textbook support and constructed and/or refurbished schools.

Current Activities:

- Continue textbook support

Accomplishments:

- Constructed six schools
- Printed more than 524,500 textbooks

HEALTH

Goal: Improve the access to and quality of health services and increase the abilities of individuals, families, and communities to protect their health.

Summary: USAID's principal health investments in Nimroz Province come through nationwide programs, including support for health and family planning products, provision of refresher training courses for nurses and physicians, and technical assistance to the Provincial Health Office and implementing non-governmental organizations.

Current Activities:

- Support social marketing of health and family planning products (such as contraceptives, water purification agents, and oral rehydration salts for diarrhea) through private sector outlets
- Fund the Diseases Early Warning System for 14 routine conditions/diseases in five sentinel sites
- Support the Provincial Public Health Office and the Provincial Public Health Coordination Committee to strengthen the technical, leadership, and management capacity of the provincial health team to support the delivery of the Basic Package of Health Services (BPHS) and the Essential Package of Hospital Services (EPHS)
- Distribute community awareness materials for tuberculosis, diagnostic, treatment and training packages for tuberculosis including a database information system and maintenance equipment for the database
- Train community health worker trainers and community health supervisors, and orient new non-government organization staff, to expand the use of post-partum family planning
- Increase the technical and managerial skills of healthcare workers through refresher training for doctors, nurses, and lab technicians

Accomplishments:

- Trained 7,200 pharmacists, shura members, and community health workers on safe drinking water, oral rehydration salts, and birth spacing to increase the quality of preventative healthcare
- Trained provincial health officers to develop monthly joint monitoring plans to support the delivery of BPHS and EPHS

INFRASTRUCTURE

Goal: Improve infrastructure in order to create licit economic opportunities, promote freedom of movement, and facilitate delivery of government and social services.



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Summary: The infrastructure program for Nimroz Province focuses on the maintenance of roads facilities while building the capacity of local workers and supporting the provincial economy using locally available materials.

Current Activities:

- Maintain the Nimroz section of the Ring Road while strengthening the capacity of the Provincial Road Maintenance Unit of the Ministry of Public Works to manage road maintenance by Afghan contractors

Accomplishments:

- Constructed or refurbished 124 wells to increase the residents' access to potable water, and improve the health of people, livestock, and crops
- Rehabilitated the Nimroz section of the Ring Road to connect the province to the rest of Afghanistan

STABILIZATION

Goal: Improve stability, extend the reach of the Afghan government, and promote stabilization efforts that lay the groundwork for medium- to long-term development activities.

Summary: USAID creates linkages and builds confidence between communities and the local government through small-scale infrastructure, training, and community development projects.

Current Activities:

- Support community-level cash-for-work programs that improve city infrastructure, support community development priorities, and offer temporary employment (wages earned through these public and community works projects enable the poor to purchase food for themselves and their families)
- Support trash collection in Delaram community bazaar
- Renovate a school to provide a safe, sanitary, and year-round center of education for the Delaram community

Accomplishments:

- Supported four technical advisors to line ministries and provincial authorities to assist with training in public administration and service delivery
- Helped 41,200 people through labor intensive programs that improve city infrastructure, support community development priorities, and offer temporary employment
- Refurbished Delaram Governance Center building and grounds and provided rugs for Afghan government facilities in Delaram District